

7-6-1907

Letter from Elizabeth H. Bartol, Marblehead Neck, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, 1907 July 6

Elizabeth H. Bartol

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Marblehead Neck.

July 6. /67-

I wonder if you would like the sea here today
dear Al - I do - It is a misty, rainy day
& the tide is low, but I have been walking up &
down the pier on its sheltered side & watching
the low coming lines of foam flow back the
up the shaly beach, leaving more & more of the
sea-weedy rock exposed - just a gentle
lap of the water all the time - A real New
England sea-side day. Do they have seals
I wonder on the shores of the Mediterranean?
And where are you? How I want to hear from
you now few of your Roman life & what news
of art there are! - Nothing new or strange has
happened to me - Some work in the little room
where the grapes were blossoming sweet again &
the caterpillars eating the leaves too - I'm sorry
to say, when I came away - We have left
the place shut up for the summer. Father
enjoys the large room thoroughly & it is a
refuge to him from all the noise & fuss of the
house - So I spare it willingly & find the
little room very pleasant even with the noisy shut.

body G. has been there with one part of the Spring & early summer. She & her
mother are boarding at South Boston Point, where they hope to gain health and
strength, which they both need. They are very pleasantly situated opposite Fort
Independence & with a lovely view of the harbor and of the mountains - more
sea air than they could find elsewhere. So near the city - history based
be either strong or selling much this Spring - anything I might almost say.
Picture selling is very dull - Mr. Bole got almost discouraged some time & I
hardly had an opportunity to sell my Lady Godiva yet; I thought it over to
Mr. Lathrop who was very anxious to see it, but I couldn't make a trade with him.
I have been trying a little sketch in color of them, but why is a beauty; I
hoped to finish it before I came away, but was too hurried at least to
leave it. This is a new place to us & I haven't got to work yet & hardly
accustomed - Mother doesn't fancy it much, but I began to like it - There's
nothing but sea - we are almost entirely separated from the main land; there
is a light house & one other house upon the point & various shacks & tents
where the Quaker poor spend the summer - There are almost no trees
but lots of wild roses among the rocks & bits of well-cultivated farm land.
We have one sort of coarse & mean to set all we can get out of it.

But such days as this there is little to do out-side
& I got to thinking across the water that washes
up so constantly in our sight - I saw Mr
Chastorik over in town yesterday; he was a Marblehead
boy I believe; he spoke of Miss Manning with
interest & said she was having a good time, which I
can readily believe - Will you give my warm love to
her? - & my best wishes too - I hope she is
finding just what she wants in the way of work.
I saw your brother Edward just before we came away;
he, dear good man, was interesting himself in Mrs
O'Connell's boy who has gotten into the House of Industry
for stealing, much to his Mother's grief - he wrote a
petition for his release, & took all sorts of trouble
about it. - The enclosed paragraph was handed
to me by Mrs. Fields some weeks ago to send to you.
I dare say you may have already seen it -
We expect her & Mrs F. here in a week or two;
meanwhile it is rather lonely in the house -
only two other boarders - a Catholic Bishop from
Canada & a little woman with a sick baby & today
Father has gone to Lancaster for Sunday - When you
have time & inclination you know how glad I shall be
to have a word from you; You will hear so much more
to tell me than I can have to tell you - Tell me what
you are doing - what I care most for, & how you like Rome
& Romans - - - - -
Very truly & affectionately
your sister
Mrs. F. - Boston - something is proposed